DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 205 344 RC 012 861

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TITLE Kansas High School English Mini-Courses.
INSTITUTION Community Unit School District No. 3, Kansas, Ill.
PUB DATE 12 May 81
NOTE 17p.

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS Career Exploration; Drama; *English Curriculum; Grammar; Literary Criticism; Literary Genres; *Literature; Mass Media; *Minicourses; Multigraded Classes; Rural Schools; Secondary Education; *Small Schools; *Thematic Approach; *Writing (Composition)
IDENTIFIERS Illinois

ABSTRACT

The English curriculum for grades 10-12 at Kansas High School, a small rural school in Eastern Illinois, consists of mini-courses with an enrollment of 7-20 students. Students must pass the ninth grade English course before they are permitted to register for mini-courses; they are required to take English as sophomores and juniors. During this time, students must take one course each nine weeks; however, they may take as many extra courses as their schedule or grade point average permits. Since grouping for mini-courses is heterogeneous, sophomores, juniors, and seniors may be in the same class. Composition and grammar are incorporated into each class whether it is a straight composition course, novels course, vocational course, or thematic course. The schedule for grammar is the same for all classes. The mini-course program enables the school's two English teachers to teach in those areas in which they are most proficient; it provides students with a more flexible program and a more comprehensive course of study than is available in many small school systems. Following the narrative section, there is an outline of the freshman English curriculum, a grammar schedule for all mini-courses, and a listing and description of each mini-course offered. (Author/CM)

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KANSAS HIGH SCHOOL ENGLISH

MINI-COURSES

by
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May 12, 1981

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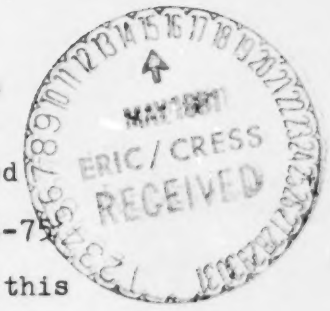
Community Unit School District No. 3
Edgar County

Dr. Edgar Gaskill, Superintendent

Kansas, Illinois
61933

RC 012861

Kansas, Illinois Unit District #3, a small rural school system of 98 square miles in eastern Illinois, has an enrollment in grades 7-12 of approximately 160 students. All English classes for 7-12 are taught by two teachers and they have developed the mini-course curriculum in grades 10-12. All other courses in the system are on a semester or yearly basis; however, the English curriculum has been incorporated into the scheduling on a nine week schedule. Class size in the junior high ranges from 18 to 28 students and the mini-course class size may vary from 7 to 20 students .



Introduction to English mini-courses

The curriculum at Kansas High School has included mini-courses in the English department since the 1974-75 school year. During this time the staff has revised this curriculum several times.

Students must pass the ninth grade English course before they are permitted to register for the mini-courses. Kansas High School requires three credits in English for graduation. Students receive one credit for ninth grade English and ¼ credit for each mini-course they pass.

Students are required to take English as sophomores and juniors. During this time they must take one course each nine weeks; however, they may take as many extra courses as their schedule or their grade point average will permit. Since this program has been in effect, many students have chosen to take extra English as an alternative to study hall or as an elective.

Grouping for the mini-courses is heterogenous as sophomores, juniors and seniors may be in the same class; however, this has never posed a problem in discipline or grading. The students are aware that they will be judged accordingly in any subjective testing,(i.e.composition, term papers, oral reports.)

Composition and grammar are incorporated into each class whether it is a straight composition course, a novels course, a vocational course, or a thematic course. The schedule for grammar is the same for all classes.

The advantages to this type of a program are many. It allows the two teachers to teach in those areas in which they

are most proficient. It also gives the students a more flexible program as well as a more comprehensive course of study than is available in many small school systems.

FRESHMEN ENGLISH OUTLINE

GRAMMAR: Warriners Grammar and Composition

Chapter	Subject Matter
1.	Parts of Speech
2.	Parts of Sentence
3.	Phrases
4.	Clauses
5.	Subject-Verb agreement
6.	Use of Verbs
7.	Pron.-Nominative and Objective-Agreement with Antecedent
8.	Use of Modifiers
9.	Glossary of Usage
22.	Capitalization
23-27	Punctuation

COMPOSITION
Also some in Warriner's
Paragraph Construction
Topic Sentence
Unity
Conclusion
Five paragraph paper
Some Creative Writing

VOCABULARY: VOCABULARY FOR COLLEGE A
Also Vocabulary in relationship to Literature

LITERATURE: ADVENTURES IN READING

Short Story Unit
- Basic Plot structure
- Three major conflicts
- Early American authors
- Brief history of short story
- Theme

Shakespeare Unit
- Romeo and Juliet
- Julius Caesar
- Brief introduction to times and theater

Novel (Usually two)
- Great Expectations
- To Kill A Mockingbird
- The Cay
- The Pigman

Poetry
- Basically appreciation
- Elementary terms and mechanics

GRAMMAR SCHEDULE FOR ALL MINI-COURSES

Warriner's Grammar and Composition 10and 11

First Nine Weeks
- Capitalization
- Punctuation
- Glossary of Usage
- Spelling

Second Nine Weeks
- Parts of Speech
- Sentence Structure
- Agreement of subject and verb
- Letter Writing
- Spelling

Third Nine Weeks
- Pronoun Usage-Nominative and Objective
- Agreement of Pronoun and Antecedent
- Verb Usage
- Modifiers

Fourth Nine Weeks
- Phrases
- Clauses
- Review

Mini-Courses(Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors only)

COMIC SPIRIT- This course will be a study of various types of literary humor and also a study of how humor has changed and what is a basis for humor. Several sources will be used including works of Twain and Thurber. There will also be filmstrips exploring the evolution of American humor from Irving through Will Rogers and Ogden Nash. Some films from the Rolling Prairie Library will also be used. (All students)

CREATIVE WRITING- This course is designed for those students who are interested in any type of creative writing. The course will emphasize content rather than mechanics. Various forms, both prose and poetry will be studied.(All students)

SHORT STORIES- This course will be a continuation of the introduction of the short story taught in English I. The Scholastic Short Story Unit will be used as well as other anthologies. Films will also be used when available. Written and oral reactions will be required. The culminating requirement of this class will be an original short story. (All students)

SEARCH FOR IDENTITY- Filmstrips, films, short stories and at least one novel dealing with the young adult and his/her search for a place in society. The course will touch on problems one encounters in this search...parents, school, friends and basic morality. There will be group discussions and written reactions to the material presented.(Juniors and Seniors)

BIBLE LITERATURE-This course will be a study of the Bible as literature. The Old Testament will be studied as examples of the Epic, Wisdom Literature, Poetry, and Short Stories. The New Testament will be studied for Rhetoric, Epistolary Literature and wisdom Literature. The influence of Biblical themes on Western literature will also be studied. This course will concentrate on the text itself and not its theological impact. (All students)

JOURNALISM- This course will be offered as a beginning course in writing for and the publication of a school paper. Basic writing skills will be stress as well as some study as th the mechanics of printing and publishing a newspaper. (all students)

WORLD OF THE FUTURE- This course will include the study of three novels:Alas Babylon, 1984, Citizens of the Galaxy. A fictionalized view of future cultures and man's role in them will be the theme of reading, writing and discussion. Some films and television may be used when available.(all students)

LITERATURE OF THE SCREEN- This will be a study of the actual scripts of popular films exploring the themes of identity, power and values in conflict. Such films as "Cool Hand Luke", "Up the Down Staircase", "The Candidate", "High Noon", and "The Hustler" will be read with oral and written reactions as to their relationship to a specific theme. (all students)

LITERATURE OF MYSTERY- This course introduces the literature of mysteryand its patterns and terminology through the study of the novel, the drama and short stories. (all students)

THE DEVIL YOU SAY- This course will examine the presentations and characterizations of the devil by various writers, noting the role of tradition, superstition, science and psychology and other contemporary social factors. Bath early and modern writers will be presented. (all students)

DICKENS- The life and times of Charles Dickens, as well as the effect of his writing will be studied. Hard Times, Oliver Twist, and David Copperfield will be used as the basis for this course. (all students)

SALUTE TO AMERICA Many aspects of American literature will be presented. There will be an introduction to the development of literature in America from the early Indian and Puritan literature to that of today's American authors. (all students)

SATIRE- The course is designed to trace the development of the stirical writing from Addison and Steele to the present, with emphasis on the presentday forms, including cartoons, editorials, political speeches, and T.V. It is both a writing and reading course.

ANOTHER WORLD_ Early pioneer America will be the subject matter for this course. Two novels and at least one research paper will be the minimum requirement. One of the novels for the course will be Giants in the Earth which is the story of the settling of the Dakotas and the second novel may vary from year to year. Outside reading will also be required. (all students)

COMPOSITION II This course will be a combination of creative writing and advanced composition. Organization and structure of the longer paper, uses of transitional devices, vocabulary, the creative approach and basic mechanics will be presented.

THE UNKNOWN COUNTRY_A combination of essays, short stories, poetry, films and one novel considering the theme of death will be used. This course will also consider aspects of terminal illness, grief, legal terminology and funeral rites and rituals. A term paper will be written on funeral rites and rituals of this country and other countries. (all students)

WEAPON OF WORLS W.O.W.- This is an individualized course used to stress better use of both the oral and written forms of the language. There will be short papers, speeches, vocabulary study and spelling.

PEARL BUCK- In addition to reading three novels, students will be made aware of the biography of the author and the conditions existing in China while she lived there and the effects of her work. Novels including The Good Earth, relates how a Chinese peasant accumulates land while suffering famine, drought, and revolution; Imperial Woman-biographical novel of Tzu-hsi, last Empress Dowager of China. It traces her rise from concubine to Empress and her rule from 1861 to

1908 ; The Three Daughters of Madame Liang-story of a propietress of a Shanghai restaurant frequented by Red Chinese officials who hopes her three daughters will remain in the United States, but two return home. Contrasts the old and the new China.

THE EMERGING WOMAN- By reading various types of literature-poems, essays, short stories and plays...the problem of women's role in society will be considered. A review of the past will be considered in order that young people can identify with the best that humanity has produce, but the emphasis will be on the changing roles of today's men and women. (allstudents)

ENGLISH NOBLES- Representative writings of English literature from Old English to Contemporary will be studied; however, twentieth century writers will be emphasized. (Juniors and Seniors)

BASIC COMPOSITION-This course will begin with emphasis on the basic skills in paragraph construction and the mechanics of writing. Punctuation, capitalization, usage and organization of materials will be stressed. After these skills have been taught there will be some emphasis on content. (all students)

SPORTS AND ADVENTURE- This course will offer high-interest, low level reading in short stories, poems and essays on sports. Oral discussion and basic reading skills will be stressed, particularly vocabulary. Students will do one short research paper. At least one adventure novel will also be studied.

ONCE UPON A MIDNIGHT- This course will be emphasizing Edgar Allan Poe and his works;however, other authors of suspense and mystery may be included for contrast and comparison. Mary Shelley's Frankenstein will be read as the novel for the course. Short stories, poems and films will be used as a basis for study also.(all students)

OCCU-PAK- Each student chooses a specific vocation and does an in-depth study of that vocation by preparing an occu-pak which is to be used as a teaching tool for other vocational studies.(usually at the elementary level) Types of activities which are included in the preparation of the occu-pak include letters of inquiry, taping interviews, vocabulary lists, written reports, some research and some creative activities.(all students)

SINCLAIR LEWIS-This course will be an in-depth study of the style and social criticism of Sinclair Lewis as shown in the following three novels: Main Street, Babbitt, and Dodsworth. Filmstrips and posters will also be used.(all students)

MYTHS AND LEGENDS-This course will stress the development of literature from the ancient myths of Greece and Rome to that of contemporary songs and legends. A textbook will be used plus films, records, puzzles, and posters. Students will be encouraged to do seminar work with those areas which interest them most. (all students)

PREJUDICE- This course will present an anthology of authors from four ethnic groups: American-born Blacks, Jews, Irish, and Armenians. Filmstrips from the Lincoln Trail Library are available as are four filmstrips depicting these four minority groups. Students from Eastern could also be invited to lecture about their particular ethnic literary backgrounds. (Juniors and Seniors)

TERM PAPER-This course will stress the following seven steps in writing a research paper:

1. Selecting and limiting the subject
2. Preparing a working bibliography
3. Preparing a preliminary outline
4. Reading and taking notes
5. Assembling notes and writing the final outline
6. Writing the first draft
7. Writing the revised final draft with footnotes and the bibliography.

(Advanced Juniors and Seniors)

ESSAYS- This course will use a textbook of autobiographical essays as models for tunring the students' personal experiences into good writing. Formal essays will be studied, but the personal, informal essay will be stressed.(all students)

DRAMA- This course will be an introduction to American drama of this century ranging from minstrel shows of the turn of the century to the modern Broadway play. Materials to be used include a textbook of representative plays, filmstrips, records, resource people from the community and faculty, and trips to see and hear performances in the area if possible. (all students)

SHAKESPEARE- This course will cover three plays of Shakespeare: Hamlet (tragedy) ,The Taming of the Shrew(comedy), Henry IV(history). The plays may change from one year to the next. Texts, filmstrips, records, and posters will be used.(advanced juniors and srs.)

RHYME AND REASON-This course will include the reading and study of the basic mechanics of poetry. Poetry used will range of the early Enlish ballad to modern music.Students will be encouraged to do some writing of their own focusing on themes of universal human concern. Textbooks, recoris, pictures and magazines will be used. (all students)

COLLEGE PREP.-This course will emphasize the kinds of thinking needed for college entrance. Material will include paraphrasing, precis writing, writing letters of application, filling out application forms, and written composition. Elements of formal logic will be presented as well as a review of grammar, vocabulary, and sentence building skills. Community personnel will be asked to lecture on various aspects of college preparedness.(seniors)

LITERATURE OF PROTEST-This course is focused on the nature, function, and effect of the society in which the literary characters lived and on the social forces played on them. Suggested and possible readings:The Jungle,Upton Sinclair; The Octopus,Frank Norris; Washington Square, Henry James. (all students)

NOVELS- This course will involve the study of the novel as a form of literature. Both American and English authors will be studied. The novels which will be used in the course this year are For Whom The Bell Tolls by Hemingway, and Return of the Native, by Thomas Hardy. (all students)

WORLD LITERATURE- By studying Tolstoy, students will be reading Anna Karenia , one of the greatest love stories of the world, written by one of Russia's important moral thinkers and social reformers. His writings, as well as his life style, inspired people to live by his beliefs.

As a Frenchman, Hugo led the romantic movement in French literature. By reading The Hunchback of Notre Dame students will be exposed to this imaginative treatment of subject matter and skillful use of many literary forms. Time permitting, some of his poems will also be studied. (The French regard him first as a poet and second as a novelist.) (all students)

EPICS-This course will define the word Epic and will trace the development of the Epic form from the ancient to the modern. (all students)

Schedule For Year

	1st Hour	2nd Hour	3rd Hour	4th Hour	5th Hour	6th Hour	7th Hour	8th Hour
1st Nine Weeks Walborn Camp	7th Grade	Unknown Country	Drama	Free	English I Developmental Reading	Basic Comp	Occu-Pak	Free
	7th Grade	Remedial Reading	8th Grade	Shakespeare	English I	Free	World Lit	Free
2nd Nine Weeks Walborn Camp	7th Grade	Journalism	World of the Future	Free	English I Developmental Reading	Comp II	Short Stories	Free
	7th Grade	Remedial Reading	8th Grade	College Prep	English I	Free	Pearl Buck	Free
3rd Nine Weeks Walborn Camp	7th Grade	Ryhme and Reason	Once Upon a Midnight	Free	English I Developmental Reading	Novels	Lit of Screen	Free
	7th Grade	Remedial Reading	8th Grade	Term Paper	English I	Free	Mythology	Free
4th Nine Weeks Walborn Camp	7th Grade	Bible Lit	Lit. of Mystery	Free	English I Developmental Reading	Media	Weapon of Words	Free
	7th Grade	Remedial Reading	8th Grade	English Nobles	English I	Free	Satire	Free